

TIPPECANOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
June 18, 2007

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners met on Monday, June 18, 2007 at 10:00 a. m. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President KD Benson, Vice President John L. Knochel and Commissioner Ruth E. Shedd. Also present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Commissioners' Assistant Frank Cederquist, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

President Benson called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve minutes from the June 4, 2007 meeting, second by Commissioner Shedd; motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS

Commissioner's Assistant Frank Cederquist recommended approval for accounts payable vouchers for June 7, 8, 14, 15, 18 without exception.

- Commissioner Shedd moved to approve accounts payable vouchers as submitted with no exceptions, second by Commissioner Knochel; motion carried.

HIGHWAY – Opal Kuhl

Awarding of Bid for Bridge #152

Director Opal Kuhl recommended the lowest bidder Jack Isom Construction be awarded the bid in the amount of \$799,832.84.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to accept the contract for Bridge #52 with the accompanying Performance, Maintenance and Payment bonds, second by Commissioner Shedd; motion carried.

Ordinance amending Tippecanoe County Code Chapter 72, Schedules III & IV – Traffic Schedules regarding Stop and Yield Intersections

Mike Parks presented an ordinance based on a study conducted by the Highway Department. He added that the study was performed on all yield signs which intersect roads with 400 cars or more a day.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve Ordinance 2007-23-CM on first reading:

Benson	Yes
Knochel	Yes
Shedd	Yes

Ordinance 2007-23-CM passes on first reading 3-0.

Director Kuhl presented a Continuation Certificate from Tipmont REMC in the amount of \$5,000 for work in the right-of-way.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to accept the Continuation Certificate, second by Commissioner Shedd; motion carried.

Director Kuhl recommended approval for a Continuation Certificate from Fairfield Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$5,000.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve the Continuation Certificate, second by Commissioner Shedd; motion carried.

A 3-Year Construction Maintenance Bond from Mundell & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$5,000 was recommended for approval.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve the Construction Maintenance Bond, second by Commissioner Shedd; motion carried.

YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE

Director Rebecca Humphrey presented a study prepared by Mike McMillen. This study provided an analysis of two possible locations for youth services. Mr. McMillen visited and assessed St. Claire Nursing Home in Otterbein for use as residential detention center and the Payless Supermarket building on Elmwood Avenue for an alternative services center. According to the study, the rehabilitation cost of the nursing home would be equal to the cost of a new facility. The Payless Supermarket building was estimated by Mr. McMillen to cost about 75%-90% of new construction cost. Director Humphrey suggested the Payless facility may be a possibility if other options are available for the detention center. She added that plans for the female residential facility are progressing; she hopes to have the modular home located at the fairgrounds to Cary Home by the middle of July.

ORDINANCE 2007-22-CM; Amending Tippecanoe County Code, Adding New Section 34.63, Coroner's Department Fee Schedule

Dr. Martin Avolt discussed the new ordinance for the coroner's office. The amount of out-of-county users are increasing as well as the number of participants for autopsies. This ordinance will recover costs associated with autopsies. Dr. Avolt noted the cost for autopsies for out-of-county use is currently \$35 and will increase to \$200 if the ordinance is passed.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve Ordinance 2007-22-CM, second by Commissioner Shedd:

Benson	Yes
Knochel	Yes
Shedd	Yes

Ordinance 2007-22-CM passes 3-0 on first reading.

2008 BUDGET – NEW POSITION REQUESTS AND SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Sheriff's Department – Tracy Brown

Sheriff Tracy Brown requested two positions for the Sheriff's Department. An additional LPN for Jail/Medical services is needed due to the increasing number of unhealthy inmates. The population in the jail is consistently increasing with an average daily population of 516 inmates. A secretarial position is also being requested to assist officers in processing reports. Additionally, he noted a civil process officer position has not been filled due to the decrease in amount of civil papers served and suggested the cost of this position could offset the costs of the new positions. Sheriff Brown is also requesting the 911 dispatch officer request previously funded by 911 be funded from the General Fund. The 911 fund can no longer support communications officers due to the decrease of funding from land lines in homes and higher cost from 911 providers.

Area Plan Commission – Sallie Dell Fahey

Director Fahey requested two positions for 2008. Her initial request was for 2007, if unapproved she is requesting positions for 2008. Director Fahey noted reimbursements are available on the GIS Technician/Addressing and added that the re-classified GIS Technician/General held by an employee with longevity is estimated to be the same salary.

Superior Court 3 – Rebecca Humphrey

Director Humphrey recommended approval for a Drug Court Coordinator position. This position has been previously filled by the Deputy Chief of Probation and later Kathy Timberlake as a stop-gap measure to meet the needs of the court. The administrative duties in Superior Court 3 have increased drastically therefore, Kathy Timberlake is unable to assume the responsibilities. She noted all 2007 grants have been exhausted thus far. Unless new grants present themselves the position is unfunded. She plans to write additional grants in 2008 to fund the position but is requesting approval to fill the position to keep the Drug Court active.

Fairgrounds

Extension Office Director Bryan Metzger recommended approval for an Assistant Property Manager at the fairgrounds. Usage at the fairgrounds has increased and the court ordered manpower is constantly decreasing. Currently, there are two part time employees assisting the Property Manager with events at the fairgrounds. Director Metzger proposed the part time revenue allotted to the fairgrounds be rolled into funding for the full time position. He added that the full time employee will be skilled in general maintenance as well as assisting the Fairgrounds Property Manager.

Adult Probation

Dave Hollinger and Misty Robinson requested on behalf of the department, seven probation officers for 2008. Mr. Hollinger stated the caseload is overwhelming and additional training for officers is a large burden on the staff. With the current caseload, offenders aren't receiving enough visits to properly manage their case. Mr. Hollinger noted that both juvenile and adult probation are in dire need of additional staffing.

Prosecutor

Kristin McVey recommended approval of a paralegal position for 2008. She noted currently one paralegal is assigned to 16 attorneys to prepare all motions, pleadings, discoveries and legal research that regular administrative staff is unable to perform. IV-D is also requesting a paralegal with the same duties.

Public Defender

Public Defender Amy Hutchison requested two regular part time attorney positions to stay in compliance with the state reimbursement program.

County Assessor

Chief Deputy Georgia Jones is requesting two positions. The request includes a position for Appeals/Non-Profits filings and also a Sales Disclosure position. She noted that the additional appeal period and large amount of appeals require one employee be dedicated to processing appeals. And the sales disclosure position is performed by an existing employee, but never classified as such.

Salary Recommendation - Jennifer Weston

Auditor Weston presented a salary recommendation chart with 2007 budget salaries to provide estimates for 2008. The PERF contribution will increase from 6% to 6.5% in 2008, which will cost the county \$75,000 out of the general fund. Estimates were presented based on 1%, 2%, and 3% increase in salaries which include social security and PERF. For planning purposes, the county estimates a growth in property taxes collections allowed at about 3.7%. This is down from 4% in the current year.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to recommend a 2.5% increase in wages for 2008; motion failed without a second.

Commissioner Benson noted she was in favor of a 2% increase that would allow the county additional revenue to fund new positions.

- Commissioner Shedd moved to recommend the 3% increase for employee's salaries; second by Commissioner Knochel; motion carried.

APPLICATIONS TO VILLA

Commissioner Knochel moved to approve applications to the Villa for Tamara Ann May and Chauncey Crowder Jr., second by Commissioner Shedd; motion carried.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

No unfinished or new business.

REPORTS ON FILE

Veteran's Office
Public Library
Weights & Measures

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

- Commissioner Benson moved to recess until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday June 20, 2007.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE**

KD Benson, President

John L. Knochel, Vice President

Ruth E. Shedd, Member

ATTEST:

Jennifer Weston, Auditor